AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An arrangement for running a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, comprising

   a) a collecting device ~~(101; 201; 501; 601)~~, which can be moved as desired over the storage area, in particular by a portal robot,

   b) an intermediate store ~~(102; 202; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ arranged on the collecting device ~~(101; 201; 501; 601)~~ to accommodate objects to be picked up from the storage area, it being possible for the intermediate store ~~(102; 202; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ to be filled successively from various stacks in separate pick-up steps, and

   c) a gripping device ~~(103; 203; 503a, 503b)~~ arranged on the collecting device ~~(101; 201; 501; 601)~~ for lifting one or more objects from one of the stacks, it being possible for the gripping device ~~(103; 203; 503a, 503b)~~ to be moved vertically;

   characterized in that

   d) the gripping device ~~(103; 203; 503a, 503b)~~ is substantially formed by two mutually opposite blades ~~(104, 105; 204, 205; 504a, 504b, 505a, 505b; 604, 605)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the collecting device ~~(101; 201; 601)~~ is divided into two mutually opposite halves which can be moved relative to each other.

3. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the intermediate store ~~(102; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ is substantially formed by two mutually opposite side beams ~~(108, 109; 508, 509; 608, 609)~~.

4. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the blades ~~(104, 105; 504a, 504b, 505a, 505b; 604, 605)~~ of the gripping device ~~(103; 503a, 503b)~~ are mounted in the side beams ~~(108, 109; 508, 509; 608, 609)~~ of the intermediate store ~~(102; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ such that they can be moved vertically.

5. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that vertical planes which are defined by the blades ~~(204, 205)~~ and by the side beams ~~(208, 209)~~ of the intermediate store enclose a space with a substantially rectangular cross section.

6. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the blades ~~(104, 105; 204, 205; 504a, 504b, 505a, 505b)~~ comprise on an inner side holding elements ~~(119; 219; 519)~~ for holding the objects and/or securing elements ~~(118; 518)~~ for securing the objects against horizontal movements relative to the gripping device and/or tilting.

7. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate store ~~(102; 202; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ is arranged in a fixed location above the storage area as the objects are picked up.

8. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate store ~~(102)~~ comprises at its upper end a vertically movable element ~~(131)~~ which exerts a force downward on the topmost stored object in order to stabilize the stored stack.

9. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate store ~~(102; 202)~~ comprises holding elements ~~(130; 237)~~ for holding the stored objects and/or securing elements ~~(120)~~ for securing the objects against horizontal movements relative to the intermediate store ~~(102; 202)~~ and/or tilting.

10. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate store ~~(102; 502a, 502b)~~ comprises, preferably at its lower end, a calibration part ~~(110; 510)~~ which corrects an orientation of the objects as they are inserted into the intermediate store ~~(102; 502a, 502b)~~.

11. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the calibration part ~~(110)~~ is formed by two C-shaped adjusting elements ~~(111, 112)~~.

12. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that a collecting device ~~(501)~~ comprises a plurality of intermediate stores ~~(502a, 502b)~~.

13. (Currently amended) The arrangement, in particular as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, for running a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, comprising

a) a collecting device ~~(601)~~, which can be moved as desired over the storage area, in particular by a portal robot,

b) an intermediate store ~~(602)~~ arranged on the collecting device ~~(601)~~ to accommodate objects to be picked up from the storage area, it being possible for the intermediate store ~~(602)~~ to be filled successively from various stacks in separate pickup steps, and

c) a gripping device ~~(604, 605)~~ arranged on the collecting device ~~(601)~~ for lifting one or more objects from one of the stacks, it being possible for the gripping device ~~(604, 605)~~ to be moved vertically;

characterized by

d) a storage unit ~~(649.1...649.6)~~, which can be moved independently of the collecting device ~~(601)~~ and which is constructed in such a way that objects accommodated in the intermediate store ~~(602)~~ of the collecting device ~~(601)~~ can be transferred directly into the storage unit ~~(649.1...649.6)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the storage unit ~~(649.1...649.6)~~ is substantially C-shaped with a base part ~~(650)~~ running vertically and arranged at the rear, and two holding parts ~~(651, 652)~~ held on the base part ~~(650)~~, arranged centrally and projecting forward, between which the objects can be picked up.

15. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 13 or 14, characterized in that a plurality of storage units ~~(649.1...649.6)~~ are preferably fixedly arranged on a portal bridge ~~(647)~~, and in that the collecting device ~~(601)~~ is arranged such that it can be moved on a further portal bridge ~~(641)~~, the storage units ~~(649.1...649.6)~~ and the collecting device ~~(601)~~ being located opposite each other.

16. (Currently amended) A method for operating a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, in which

a) a collecting device ~~(101; 201; 401; 501; 601)~~ is moved over the storage area to any desired stack having objects to be picked up;

b) a gripping device ~~(103; 203; 403; 503a, 503b; 604, 605)~~ arranged on the collecting device ~~(101; 201; 401; 501; 601)~~ for picking up a stack part from one or more objects of the stack is moved vertically downward;

c) the stack part is gripped by two mutually opposite blades ~~(104, 105; 204, 205; 404, 405; 604, 605)~~ of the gripping device ~~(103; 203; 403; 503a, 503b)~~;

d) the gripping device ~~(103; 203; 403; 503a, 503b)~~ is moved vertically upward, so that an intermediate store ~~(102; 202; 402; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ arranged on the collecting device ~~(101; 201; 401; 501; 601)~~ accommodates the objects picked up from the storage area; and

e) the intermediate store ~~(102; 202; 402; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ is filled successively from various stacks in further pick-up steps.

17. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that, in order to pick up the stack part, the two mutually opposite blades ~~(104, 105; 204, 205; 404, 405; 504a, 504b, 505a, 505b; 604, 605)~~ are extended out of the collecting device ~~(101; 201; 401; 501; 601)~~, the intermediate store ~~(102; 202; 402; 502a, 502b; 602)~~ remaining in a fixed location.

18. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16 or 17, characterized in that, during the movement of the collecting device ~~(101)~~, the objects in the intermediate store ~~(102)~~ are secured against horizontal movements relative to the collecting device ~~(101)~~ and /or tilting by securing elements ~~(120)~~ of the intermediate store ~~(102)~~.

19. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16, characterized in that the objects gripped by the gripping device ~~(103; 503a, 503b)~~, as they move upward, are secured against horizontal movements relative to the gripping device ~~(103; 503, 503b)~~ and/or tilting by securing elements ~~(118; 518)~~ of the gripping device ~~(103; 503a, 503b)~~.

20. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16, characterized in that, in order to grip the stack part, two mutually opposite halves of a collecting device are moved toward each other until the blades hold the stack part with a form or force fit.

21. (Currently amended) The method, in particular as claimed in ~~one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16, for running in a warehouse, in which objects are stored in a plurality of stacks in a storage area, in which

a) a collecting device ~~(601)~~ is moved over the storage area to any desired stack having objects to be picked up;

b) a stack part of one or more objects from the stack is accommodated in an intermediate store ~~(602)~~ of the collecting device ~~(601)~~;

c) the intermediate store ~~(602)~~ is filled successively from various stacks in further pick-up steps; and

d) the objects accommodated in the intermediate store ~~(602)~~ are transferred to a storage unit ~~(649.1...649.6)~~ which can be moved independently of the collecting device ~~(601)~~.